

- (c) whether any SC employees had passed in the written test;
- (d) if not, whether any grace marks were given for them to qualify for the selection; and
- (e) whether any prepromotional training was given to them, just before the examination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Written test of the Limited Department Competitive Examination (LDCE) for promotion to Group 'B' posts in Civil Engineering Department was conducted during the year 2000 on Central, Southern and Western Railways.

(b) Number of SC employees who had appeared in the written test of the above LDCE was as under:

Central	: 74
Southern	: 80
Western	: 88

(c) One SC employee on Central Railway and five SC employees on Western Railway qualified in the written test.

(d) Group 'B' posts in Civil Engineering Department are "Safety" posts, hence no relaxation is permissible in the qualifying marks for employees belonging to SC/ST.

(e) Pre-promotional training to SC/ST employees are given before written examination.

Arsikere-Mangalore uniform gauge

3919. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the Karnataka Chief Minister regarding the need for uniform gauge from Arsikere to Mangalore to help exporters and importers of the hinterland, against the high costs of transportation to and from Mangalore port and for making full provision for the balance of work for completion of Hassan-Mangalore conversion project;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the Arsikere-Mangalore uniform gauge would increase the much needed revenues for the Railways; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore section is likely to attract additional traffic resulting in additional earnings for the Railways. However, a survey for the project has revealed that these earnings will not lead to a financial remunerative rate of return on the project.

Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

3920. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee, which was set up in early December, 1998 on financial restructuring of Indian Railways, has since been received;

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be received;

(c) whether the Committee has recently submitted an Interim Executive Summary of its proposed recommendations;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) The report of the Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan is yet to be received. However, an Interim Executive Summary has been received on 17.2.2001. The major recommendations of the Interim Executive Summary are:

1. Institutional separation of rules into policy, regulatory and management functions. This will mean:

(i) Policy makers are limited for setting policy (and paying for what they ask for). The Government of India will be in charge of setting policy direction.